Remarks/Arguments

35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over WO Publication 01/06771 A1 to Johnson et al. ("Johnson"), in view of US PG Pub 2005/0086693 A1 to Shintani et al. ("Shintani").

It is submitted that neither Johnson nor Shintani teach or suggest a system:

"wherein said plurality of options includes a first option to individually select which of a plurality of inputs to said signal processing apparatus are to be searched and a second option to individually select which of a plurality of types of channels are to be searched,"

as recited by currently amended claim 1.

A problem addressed by the subject application is the length of time required to perform a channel search including scanning all possible frequencies for all possible channels on all available inputs. The time required can particularly long with television signal receivers capable of receiving and decoding both analog modulation channels (e.g., NTSC, PAL, SECAM, etc.) and digital modulation channels (e.g., ATSC, QAM, VSB, etc.).

To solve this problem, the subject application discloses reducing the search time by providing users with flexible search options so they may select only those search options they desire. An on screen menu is provided with a first option to individually select which of a plurality of inputs to said signal processing apparatus are to be searched and a second option to individually select which of a plurality of types of channels are to be searched. Thus, the user is allowed to include only those inputs and only those types of channels that are relevant in the user's environment, thereby reducing the time required for channel scanning. Providing only one of the two sets of options would not provide all of the advantages of the method of claim 1. In such a case, only a fraction of the time savings

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would be provided. Furthermore, allowing the user to only select one input or one channel type at a time does not provide the advantages of the method of claim 1. In such a system, the user would be required to initiate multiple scans, one for each input or channel type, rather than initiating a single scan with the relevant inputs and channel types selected.

It is respectfully asserted that neither Johnson nor Shintani, alone or in combination, disclose generating an on-screen menu "wherein said plurality of options includes a first option to individually select which of a plurality of inputs to said signal processing apparatus are to be searched and a second option to individually select which of a plurality of types of channels are to be searched," as described in currently amended claim 1.

Johnson teaches a system where "a television, such as an HDTV receiver, includes a plurality of signal inputs each of which is adapted to receive television signals comprising a plurality of channels and communicate the received television signals to a processor/tuner for selection of the various channels by a user for viewing on a display of the television. A channel search routine for the detection of channels in the television signal is accomplished on the currently designated signal input rather than on all signal inputs of the television. The channels detected during the search of the currently designated signal input are included in a channel list that is stored in memory of o the television. A GUI is preferably used to initiate the channel search and is capable of displaying the detected channels relating to the currently selected signal input. Channel lists for each signal input are updated as the channels are detected. A complete channel list may be maintained for all signal inputs as well as individual channel lists for each signal input." (Johnson Abstract)

As admitted in the Office Action, Johnson does not teach the limitation "select a plurality of options." (Office Action, page 3) Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Johnson fails to disclose generating an on-screen menu "wherein said plurality of options includes a first option to individually select which of a plurality of inputs to said signal processing apparatus are to be searched and a second option to individually select which of a plurality of types of channels are to be searched," as described in currently amended claim 1.

Shintani is directed at a similar problem where as "the number of available channels continues to increase, the running of an auto-program can take prohibitively excessive amounts of time." (Shintani, paragraph 0004) To solve this problem, Shintani teaches a "method, apparatus, and system are provided for use in performing a limited channel mapping. In some embodiments a method can **select an input** of a plurality of inputs, **select a single modulation scheme** of a plurality modulation schemes delivered through the selected input, tune in a plurality of channels for the single modulation scheme, determine if a broadcast is received on each of the channels, record channels that are determined to receive broadcasts in a channel map, and not performing a full auto-program." (Shintani et al. Abstract, emphasis added)

Shintani does disclose allowing the user to control which modulation schemes are scanned:

> "For example, the receiver can be instructed (e.g., by a user) not to tune in a particular modulation scheme and/or format. This instruction not to tune in a modulation format may be issued, for example, when the user knows that there are no signals modulated using Advanced Television System Committee (ATSC) formats on his/her cable system, and thus there is no need for the receiver to try and search that modulation format on that input." (Shintani, paragraph 0032)

> "For example, a user can manually activate the enhanced auto-programming and select one or more of the specific modulation schemes to evaluate." (Shintani, paragraph 0033)

However, Shintani does not disclose providing options for both individual control over which inputs are scanned and which channel types are scanned. The system of Shintani would require the user to at least initiate multiple scans, one for each input to be scanned, thereby failing to provide much of the benefit of the presently claimed invention.

Therefore, Shintani, like Johnson, fails to disclose generating an on-screen menu "wherein said plurality of options includes a first option to individually select which of a plurality of inputs to said signal processing apparatus are to be searched and a second

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option to individually select which of a plurality of types of channels are to be searched," as described in currently amended claim 1.

In view of the above remarks and amendments to the claims, it is respectfully submitted that there is no 35 USC 112 enabling disclosure provided by Johnson or Shintani, alone or in combination, that makes the present invention as claimed in currently amended claim 1 unpatentable. It is also respectfully submitted that currently amended independent claim 7 and 13 are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Since dependent claims 2-6, 8-12, and 14-18 are dependent from allowable independent claims 1, 7, and 13, it is submitted that they too are allowable for at least the same reasons that their respective independent claims are allowable. Thus, it is further respectfully submitted that this rejection has been satisfied and should be withdrawn.

Having fully addressed the Examiner's rejections it is believed that, in view of the preceding amendments and remarks, this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly then, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicant's representative at (609) 734-6804, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled.

No fee is believed due. However, if a fee is due, please charge the additional fee to Deposit Account 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,

/brian j cromarty/

By: Brian J Cromarty
     Reg. No. L0027
     Phone (609) 734-6804

Patent Operations
Thomson Licensing Inc.
P.O. Box 5312
Princeton, New Jersey 08543-5312
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